

SENATE BILL 1623
By Black

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 23, relative to insurance coverage for hearing aids.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56, Chapter 7, Part 23, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 56-7-2365.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any individual, franchise, blanket or group health insurance policy, medical service plan, contract, hospital service corporation contract, hospital and medical service corporation contract, fraternal benefit society, health maintenance organization, or managed care organization shall provide coverage for hearing aids and for the evaluation, fitting and post-fitting examination of hearing aids.

(b) The benefits required by this section may be subject to the annual deductible and co-insurance established for all other similar benefits within a given policy, program, or contract of insurance, so long as the annual deductible and co-insurance for the benefits required by this section are no greater than the annual deductible and co-insurance established for all other similar benefits within that policy, program, or contract of insurance.

(c) A health insurance carrier shall not reduce or eliminate coverage due to the requirements of this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005, the public welfare requiring it.